

NGB CORPORATION

ARK MORI BLDG. 13F, 12-32, AKASAKA 1-CHOME, MINATO-KU, TOKYO 107-6013 JAPAN
TEL:3-5561-0111 PATENT DEPT. FAX:3-5561-3954~3956

CONFIRMATION

March 22, 2005

VIA FACSIMILE

fax: 3 pages

Mr. Terrence J. Wikberg
SUGHRUE, MION, PLLC
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037-3213
U.S.A.

Yr. Ref : Q58782
SEC Ref : F005074US00/TP
Or. Ref : S54-122913M/MTV

Re: Examiner's Proposal and
Information Disclosure Statement
U.S. Patent Appl. No. 09/544,543
SEIKO EPSON CORPORATION
Due Date: ASAP

Dear Mr. Wikberg;

1. Examiner's Proposal

In response to your letter dated March 1, 2005 providing us with your detailed comments and draft amendments for the teleconference with the Examiner, the applicant is in agreement with the proposals set forth in your letter.

2. Information Disclosure Statement

Japanese Patent Office issued an Office Action dated January 26, 2005 with respect to one of the counterparts of the present application. We are enclosing herewith copies of the Office Action and references cited therein (via courier). Please kindly submit the enclosed documents as an Information Disclosure Statement pursuant to Rule 1.97(c)(1) at your earliest convenience (because the Examiner seems to intend to allow the present application) together with the following concise explanations pursuant to Rule 1.98(a)(3).

Furthermore, please kindly the same documents as an IDS pursuant to Rule 1.97(a)(3) with respect to the following pending divisional applications.

- i) Your Ref: Q78239; SEC Ref: F005074US01/TP; Our Ref: S54-162789M/MTV
- ✓ ii) Your Ref: Q79055; SEC Ref: F005074US02/TP; Our Ref: S54-162790M/MTV
- ✓ iii) Your Ref: Q83638; SEC Ref: F005074US03/TP; Our Ref: S54-177107M/MTV

The list of the cited references which have not been submitted as an Information Disclosure Statement is as follows:

- 87273*
- D1: Japanese Patent Publication No. 3-~~80004~~⁸⁷²⁷³A;
D2: Japanese Patent Publication No. 5-169739A;
D3: Japanese Patent Publication No. 11-208040A;
D4: Japanese Utility Model Publication No. 3-49236U; and
D5: Japanese Patent Publication No. 5-162886A

The Office Action comments that:

D1 discloses a printer adapted to perform either a first sheet ejection routine or a second sheet ejection routine in accordance with a user's instruction. When the first sheet ejection routine is selected, a sheet which has been fed into the printer is ejected forward. When the second sheet ejection routine is selected, a sheet which has been fed into the printer is ejected rearward (cf., claims; page 2, from the last line of lower left column to line 18 of lower right column; page 2, from the last line of lower right column to page 3, line 11 of upper left column; page 3, from line 8 of lower left column to line 9 of lower right column, page 3, from line 16 to the last line of lower right column; page 4, from line 2 to the last line of upper left column; and Fig. 2);

D1 teaches that it is detected that a cut sheet is fed when no sheet is detected for a prescribed time period after the detection of the trailing end of the fed sheet;

D2 teaches that different instructions are issued by actuating a common button in different ways (cf., paragraph [0050]);

D3 teaches that the positioning of a leading end of a rolled sheet to be fed is performed without skew removal (cf., paragraphs [0005] and [0006]);

D4 teaches that a rolled sheet is set through the use of a hopper on which cut sheets are stacked, and the positioning of a leading end of the rolled sheet is performed while restricting the movement of the rolled sheet in a perpendicular direction to the sheet feeding direction by edge guides provided on the hopper; and

D5 teaches that different instructions are issued by actuating different buttons (cf., paragraph [0011]).

###

We thank you, in advance, for your kind cooperation.

With best regards,



Mitsuhiro Tsuchiya
Patent Department

MTV

P.S. Please acknowledge your safety receipt of this letter by return facsimile.